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CREDITON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Report of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year ending

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

31st. DECEMBER, 1955

:=:=:=:=:=:=:=:=:

YEAR 1955

To:
The Crediton Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Sir,

I beg to submit my Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health for the year.

Area = = = = =	93,370 acres
Population = = = =	9,890
Number of inhabited houses = =	3,185
Rateable value (1st October) = =	£33,436
Product of a penny rate = = =	£136.6.2.702

VITAL STATISTICS

	Males	Females	Total
1. BIRTHS			
Live Births - Legitimate	42	40	82
Illegitimate	-	2	2
Still Births -Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Birth Rate per 1,000 of Population			8.49
2. DEATHS			
Deaths from all causes	41	40	81
DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES			
Puerperal Sepsis	-	-	-
Other Puerperal Causes	-	-	-
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR			
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER FOUR WEEKS			
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	-	-	-
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)		-	-
Deaths from Diarrhoea under 2 years of age		-	-

3. NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR

Disease	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital	Total Deaths
Whooping Cough	1	-	-
Measles	40	-	-
Acute Pneumonia	4	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	1	-
Tuberculosis	3	-	-

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

(a) NURSING SERVICE

District Midwives

(b) CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

Health Visitors

(c) MIDWIFERY

General Practitioners and Midwives

(d) CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES, MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

Clinics at Newcombes, Crediton and at Morchard Bishop

(e) TUBERCULOSIS AND VENEREAL DISEASES

Tuberculosis investigations at Ivybank, Exeter, treatment at Hawkmoor Chest Hospital. V.D. Clinic R.D.& E. Hospital

(f) AMBULANCES

Service

(g) FOOD POISONING

Investigations at County Path. Laboratory, Exeter

(h) LABORATORY WORK

County Laboratory and Path. Lab., R.D.& E. Hospital, Exeter

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

L.N. JACKSON, B.A.,D.M.,B.CH.(Oxon)

Medical Officer of Health Crediton Rural Area.

5. NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR

Disease	Fatal cases Notified	Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital	Total Deaths
Whooping Cough	1	-	-
Measles	45	-	-
Acute Pneumonia	4	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	1	-
Tuberculosis	5	-	-

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF PUBLIC SERVICES IN THE AREA

(a) NURSING SERVICE

District Nursing

(b) CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

Health Visitors

(c) MIDWIFERY

General Practitioners and Midwives

(d) CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES, MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

Clinics at Gawsworth, Crewe Green and at Macclesfield Infirmary

(e) TUBERCULOSIS AND VENEREAL DISEASES

Tuberculosis Investigations at Tyncrank, Crewe, Macclesfield and Tewkbury Chest Hospitals. V.D. Clinic R.D.H. Hospital

(f) AMBULANCES

Service

(g) FOOD SUPPLIES

Inspections in County (4th). Inspectors. Tester

(h) EMERGENCY BEDS

County Isolation and Gen. Hos. (R.D.H.) Hospital Tester

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(L.L. JACKSON, M.A., D.P.H., D.O.M.S.(Oxon)

Medical Officer of Health Crewe Rural Area.

Report of the Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor for the year ending 31st. December, 1955

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year 1955.

HOUSING

In my last report, I referred to the end of Building Licensing and stated that towards the end of the year the building force was engaged more on the repair and improvement of the older properties than on the erection of new houses. This trend has continued this year and the building force has been engaged more on minor work of repair and decoration that was sadly neglected during the years of building licensing.

New Housing: Traditional Council Houses completed during the year were 9 (6 at Sandford and 3 at Copplestone), the completion of schemes started the previous year. The only new scheme this year was at Cheriton Fitzpaine where 8 non-traditional houses were erected.

The number of houses now owned by the Council is 341.

Houses erected by Private Enterprise numbered 12.

SLUM CLEARANCE

The Council gave very serious consideration to the unfit dwellings in their District and on the 15th. August submitted their proposals under Section I of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954. This listed 49 houses to be dealt with in a period of 10 years, 25 of which were to be dealt with in the first five years.

By the end of the year, two unfit houses had been demolished.

COUNCIL HOUSE MANAGEMENT

The fourth and final instalment of the Council's programme for the replacement of worn out and obsolete cooking ranges was completed. The new stoves were Alico No. 89 Combination Ranges and the total number installed was 98.

Mains water was laid on to 6 pre-war Council Houses at Zeal Monachorum and the existing hand flushed water closets were provided with flushing cisterns. In the same village, 5 post-war houses, which had hitherto drawn their supply from a well, were connected to the mains supply.

Report of the Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor for the year ending 31st. December, 1958

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year 1958.

HOUSING

In my last report, I referred to the end of Building Licensing and stated that towards the end of the year the building force was engaged more on the repair and improvement of the older properties than on the erection of new houses. This trend has continued this year and the building force has been engaged more on minor work of repair and decoration that was sadly neglected during the years of building licensing.

New Dwellings: Traditional Council houses completed during the year were 8 (6 at Sandford and 2 at Coopilatone), the completion of schemes started the previous year. The only new houses this year was at Ballyoline Kilquane where 6 non-traditional houses were erected.

The number of houses now owned by the Council is 341.

Houses erected by Private Enterprise numbered 14.

SITE CLEARANCE

The Council gave very serious consideration to the unfit dwellings in their District and on the 13th. August submitted their proposals under Section 1 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954. This listed 45 houses to be dealt with in a period of 10 years, 20 of which were to be dealt with in the first five years.

By the end of the year, two unfit houses had been demolished.

COUNCIL HOUSE IMPROVEMENTS

The fourth and final instalment of the Council's programme for the replacement of worn out and obsolete cooking ranges was completed. The new stoves were Aiton No. 22 Combination Ranges and the total number installed was 99.

Piped water was laid on to 8 pre-war Council houses at Toal Cross-Roads and the existing hand flushed water-closets were provided with flushing cisterns. In the same village, 6 post-war houses, which had hitherto been their supply from a well, were connected to the main supply.

At Yeoford, where water had been hauled because of shortage, 14 houses were connected to the mains as soon as it was available.

Two houses at Sandford, connected to a low pressure system giving an unsatisfactory supply, were connected to a high pressure main.

For the first time, water had to be hauled to the three post-war Council Houses at Eastleigh, Coldridge, owing to the failure of the well. The North Devon Water Board has been asked to expedite the extension of their main to this Hamlet.

In March of this year, a severe gale caused widespread damage to Council House roofs. The major part of the damage was to houses covered with tiles; those houses with slate roofs suffered very little.

This year a start was made on the external painting of Council Houses on a rota system. 34 houses were painted and if pressure of work allows, a greater number will be painted next year.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

59 informal applications were received. Inspections were made and advice given and eventually ten formal applications were made. One of these was later withdrawn and 9 were approved in respect of work to 11 dwellings.

Approved expenses were £6,915-4-1d., Grants authorised were £2,338. Work in respect of one cottage was not carried out.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

The number Licensed during the year was 22.

BUILDING BYELAWS

Applications received were 54. 54 Approvals were issued and one refusal, one application being brought forward from the previous year.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING

Applications received were not so numerous as last year. The total being 92 of which 88 were approved and 4 refused.

WATER SUPPLY

In January and February the rainfall was very heavy but the summer months were dry and drought conditions were experienced.

The North Devon Water Board again made excellent progress, and completed mains laying from Copplestone to Yeoford via Coleford and Colebrooke. The branch main from Sandford to East Village was also completed. Work was started on extensions from Chulmleigh to Chawleigh; Cheriton Bishop to Woodland Head; and from Winkleigh to

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Wembworthy and Eggesford.

Great use is still being made by the Water Board of the source at Bugford Quarry, Lapford, and a total of 19,000,000 gallons was pumped to supply the villages of Lapford, Morchard Bishop, Down St. Mary and Copplestone.

Ministry of Agriculture Grants have enabled the Board to carry out extensions to isolated farms. These extensions include main laying from Chawleigh to Labbetts Cross, Lapford, and from Black Dog to Beech Hill Cross, Morchard Bishop, both of which are in progress.

The Board hope to begin similar schemes shortly from Yeoford to Higher Wotton, Colebrooke, and from Coldridge to the Hamlet of East Leigh. This latter extension will also supply the Council's three houses at Orchard Close, Coldridge.

The number of houses supplied from public mains in each Parish at the end of the year is as set out below;-

Parish	Supplied into houses	Est'd population	From Standpipes	Est'd population
Bow	44	142	66	235
Brushford	-	-	-	-
Chawleigh	23	81	-	-
Cheriton Bishop	67	224	-	-
Cheriton Fitzpaine	75	239	16	55
Clannaborough	-	-	-	-
Coldridge	21	73	7	20
Colebrooke	53	182	3	10
Crediton Hamlets	102	321	-	-
Down St. Mary	56	162	-	-
Eggesford	-	-	-	-
Hittisleigh	-	-	-	-
Kennerleigh	8	28	-	-
Lapford	113	392	12	42
Morchard Bishop	148	462	17	59
Newton St. Cyres	64	218	-	-
Nymet Rowland	22	76	-	-
Poughill	33	112	3	10
Puddington	18	62	-	-
Sandford	137	428	9	31
carried fwd.	984	3060	133	527

Parish	Supplied into houses	Est'd population	From Standpipes	Est'd population
brought fwd.	984	3060	133	227
Shobrooke	50	173	-	-
Stockleigh English	4	12	-	-
Stockleigh Pomeroy	23	72	-	-
Thelbridge	34	107	-	-
Upton Hellions	-	-	-	-
Washford Pyne	18	62	-	-
Wembworthy	-	-	14	49
Woolfardisworthy	22	71	-	-
Zeal Monachorum	34	128	6	20
Total	1169	3685	153	296

WATER SAMPLES

The North Devon Water Board regularily sample their mains supply at different points in the District. Copies of the Analyst's report are always forwarded for my information. The supply has always proved to be of first class quality.

FARM WATER SUPPLIES

Five Grant aided Ministry of Agriculture schemes were submitted and observations were given after each scheme had been inspected by the Department,

SEWERAGE

No new sewerage or sewage disposal works were constructed during the year.

The schemes for sewering the villages of Cheriton Bishop and Cheriton Cross, Chawleigh, Copplestone, Morchard Bishop, Newton St. Cyres and Shobrooke, as prepared by the Council's Consulting Engineers, still lie in abeyance. Conditions at these Villages are still very unsatisfactory, especially at Chawleigh, and with the arrival of mains water are like to deteriorate still further.

Minor troubles have been experienced with short lengths of sewers at Morchard Bishop, Black Dog and Shobrooke.

FOOD AND DRUGS

25 Premises are registered for the storage and sale of pre-packed

Ice Cream. No Ice Cream is manufactured within the District.

Visits have been made to premises where food is handled and sold. The standard of cleanliness is found to be generally satisfactory.

There was no case of food poisoning reported.

This year attention was given to the sanitary accommodation at Public Houses, and in conjunction with the Licensing Justices, new or improved conveniences were provided at the London Inn, Morchard Bishop; Lamb Inn and Rose & Crown Inn, Sandford; Crown & Sceptre, Newton St. Cyres; Railway Hotel, Bow; Black Dog Inn and The Royal Hotel, Crockernwell.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There are now only three Slaughterhouses operating in the District. One small one at Morchard Bishop closed on the 25th. August.

The number of animals slaughtered has increased considerably this year, the increase being at the large wholesale Slaughterhouse at Copplestone.

Improvements have been carried out at this slaughterhouse but with the Government's future policy so uncertain, slaughterhouse proprietors are reluctant to carry out major costly improvements and Local Authorities are also reluctant to engage additional Staff to carry out meat inspection.

Every endeavour has been made to inspect as much meat as possible, but 100% inspection cannot be made unless additional staff is engaged. As things are at the moment, while meat inspection is being done, other work is being left undone.

During the year, a total of 4,336 carcases were inspected comprising 78 cattle, 3,298 sheep and lambs, 880 pigs and 80 calves.

The meat condemned was 12,043lbs. and the Offal 1,239lbs.

LICENSED SLAUGHTERMEN

The number of Licences issued were 18.

KNACKERS YARDS

The only Licensed Knacker's Yard is at Messrs. Tellam's Fertiliser Processing Factory at Cheriton Bishop. The premises are conducted satisfactorily and improvements to plant and buildings are frequently made.

COMPLAINTS

12 Complaints were received and were dealt with.

STATUTORY AND INFORMAL NOTICES

No Statutory Notices were served. 11 Informal Notices were issued

under the Public Health and Housing Acts.

31 unfit houses were rendered fit as a result of informal action.

PETROLEUM ACTS

Three new installations for the storage of Petroleum Spirit were licensed. The total number of premises licensed for the storage of Petrol is now 77.

EXPLOSIVES ACTS

21 premises are registered under the Act.

REFUSE COLLECTION

The arrangements for the monthly collection of Refuse by Contract were continued and worked reasonably satisfactorily.

The refuse tip at Bury Bridge, Lapford is being kept in a satisfactory condition.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT

The Rodent Operator was off duty for five weeks early in the year due to an injury received on the sports field. During his absence, the D.A.E.C. inspected farm property from which notification of infestation had been received.

During the year, 77 notifications were received, 60 from private householders, 13 in respect of agricultural properties and 4 in respect of business premises.

947 properties were inspected by routine survey under the Act; properties included 1 local authority premises, 677 private dwellings, 13 farms, and 4 business premises.

11 major rat infestations were found; 6 at private premises, 4 at farms and 1 at a business premises. 99 minor rat infestations were found; 1 local authority property, 63 private dwellings, 28 farms and 7 business premises.

66 properties were treated, 1 being local authority premises, 56 private dwellings, 8 farms and 1 business premises.

At one of the farms, a major infestation was dealt with, and after the first days treatment 186 rats were found.

At the end of the year, the Operator gave Notice and consideration of a successor was deferred.

INSPECTIONS, VISITS, ETC.

The Inspections, Visits, Interviews, and Meetings carried out or attended by the Department during the year are summarised below :-

PUBLIC HEALTH.	
Building Byelaws = = =	216
Cowsheds = = =	16
Complaints = = =	31
Disinfections = = =	0
Disinfestations = = =	2
Drains = = =	119
Moveable Dwellings = = =	22
Refuse Collection and Disposal =	58
Schools = = =	5
Sewers and Disposal = =	56
Water Supplies - General = =	35
Water Supplies - Farm = =	16
Water Samples = = =	0
HOUSING.	
Council Houses = = =	4362
Housing Acts = = =	185
Improvement Grants = = =	110
Overcrowding = = =	0
Public Health Acts = = =	62
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT = =	136
FOOD AND DRUGS.	
Bakehouses = = =	2
Food Premises = = =	9
Ice Cream Premises = = =	15
Knacker's Yard = = =	6
Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection	128
Public Houses = = =	26
FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS = = =	16
PETROLEUM ACTS = = =	58
EXPLOSIVES ACT = = =	6
PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT = =	1366
NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 (Sec. 50) =	0
INTERVIEWS, MISC. INSPECTIONS, ETC. =	1372
MEETINGS = = =	106

S.M. PERRIAM, M.S.I.A., A.R.S.I.
Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

INSPECTIONS, VISITS, ETC.

The Inspections, Visits, Interviews, and Meetings carried out or attended by the Inspectors during the year are numerised below :-

PUBLIC HEALTH.

Building Bye-laws	=	216
Cesspools	=	16
Complaints	=	31
Disinfections	=	0
Disinfestations	=	2
Drains	=	119
Insanitary Dwellings	=	22
Refuse Collection and Removal	=	80
Schools	=	8
Sewers and Disposal	=	36
Water Supplies - General	=	22
Water Supplies - Mains	=	18
Water Samples	=	0

HOUSING.

Council Houses	=	4866
Housing Acts	=	185
Improvement Grants	=	110
Overcrowding	=	0
Public Health Acts	=	86
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT	=	138

FOOD AND DRUGS.

Bakehouses	=	8
Food Premises	=	3
Ice Cream Premises	=	16
Inspector's Visits	=	8
Milk Distributors and Dairy Inspection		188
Public Houses	=	28
FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS	=	16
PETROLEUM ACTS	=	22
RIVERS ACT	=	6
REVENUE OF DUTIES BY FIELD ACT	=	1366
NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 (Sec. 50)	=	0
INTERVIEWS, MEDO. INSPECTIONS, ETC.	=	1872
MEETINGS	=	106

S.M. FERRIAN, M.S.I.A., A.R.S.I.
Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.